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Controller Westly Names Chief of Staff

SACRAMENTO – Adding a highly respected professional with 30 years experience in California government to his executive team, State Controller Steve Westly today named Linda Adams as Chief of Staff.

"Linda brings a tremendous set of skills as a manager, policy expert and legislative strategist," Westly said. "I know she will be an outstanding addition to our team."

Adams will oversee day-to-day operations of the state Controller's Office and Greg Larson will continue in his role as Chief Deputy Controller.

"Bringing Linda on board marks our final critical appointment as we work to achieve Controller Westly's vision for California's future: reform, opportunity and accountability," Larson said.

"Controller Westly is working hard to modernize California's government, and I'm excited about this opportunity to serve," Adams said.

Adams comes to the Controller's Office from the Governor's California Performance Review, where she serves as a member of the Resource Conservation and Protection Team. Prior to accepting that assignment, Adams served as the Director of the State Department of Water Resources for a short tenure under both Governor Schwarzenegger and Governor Davis.

Adams held a number of senior staff positions under Governor Davis, serving first as Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary and then as Legislative Secretary, where she oversaw all legislation for the governor. Adams negotiated major legislation on behalf of the governor, including Propositions 12, 13 and 40, which provide a total of \$6.6 billion for resources, parks and water programs.

She was a key negotiator in the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement and the Imperial-to-San Diego water transfer. Adams also played a key role in negotiations with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to finalize the CALFED Record of Decision to restore the reliability of water supplied by the State and Federal water projects through the San Francisco Bay-Delta. Adams also served for 20 years in the State Legislature, working for the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, and the Assembly Local Government Committee.